



9513339.0685  
**START**

TRI-CITY HERALD  
Tri-Cities, WA

DS  
**FEB 12 1995**

# Your comments are needed at a **Hanford Facility Transition Public Meeting**

**Thursday • March 9 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Columbia Basin College • Hawk Union Building, West Dining Room**

**2600 N. 20th • Pasco, WA**

**Public comment period: February 13 to March 30, 1995**

The Tri-Party Agencies\* have negotiated a tentative agreement of four major nuclear facilities: Plutonium Uranium Extraction plant, Uranium Trioxide plant, Fast Flux Test Facility and Plutonium Finishing Plant. Upon completion of the cleanup schedules, the Hanford annual costs for these facilities will be reduced approximately \$150 million.

The tentative agreement sets schedules for three facilities (Plutonium Uranium Extraction plant, Uranium Trioxide plant, and Fast Flux Test Facility) to shift from an operational standby condition to a surveillance and maintenance condition over the next six years. This will reduce the hazards to employees, the public and the environment.

The tentative agreement also schedules interim clean out activities at the Plutonium Finishing Plant. However, major cost savings and associated schedules will not be realized until after completion of the clean out based on the Environmental Impact Statement.

## **Send written comments to:**

**Annette Carlson**

**Box 1970 - B3-35, Richland, WA 99352 • (509) 376-6032 or FAX (509) 376-1970**

## **Call toll-free:**

**Hanford Cleanup Line**

**1-800-321-2008**

**For special accommodation**

**please call Michelle Davis**

**(206) 407-7126**

**(206) 407-7155 (TDD)**



## **For more information:**

**U.S. Department of Energy**

**Reading Room**

**Washington State University, Bldg. 100**

**100 Sprout Road, Rm 130, Pullman**

**Richland, WA 99352**

**(509) 376-8583**

**Attn: Terri Harb**

**\*Participating Agencies: U.S. Department of Ecology • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Department of Energy**

**THE OREGONIAN  
Portland, OR**

A15

**SEATTLE TIMES/  
SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER  
Seattle, WA**

B6

The Park Service proposal protects precisely these values.

The people of the Mid-Columbia want a high quality of life. This includes abundant outdoor recreational opportunities, diverse economy, clean water and preservation of salmon fisheries.

The Wildlife Refuge and Recreational River proposal would help ensure all these things for us and our children.

When you look at the facts, don't you wonder why the commissioners do not support what the people want?

The documents referred to in this article and further information about the reach may be obtained from the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society at P.O. Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352.

■ Rick Leumont is chairman of the Audubon Society's Hanford Reach Steering Committee.

2 of 2 Pages

# Strict rules would limit many current activities

By RAY ISAACSON

Special to the Herald

The Hanford Reach — should it be designated Wild and Scenic?

At first blush, it seems to be the politically and environmentally correct thing to do.

But looks are sometimes deceiving. The secondary aspects of some programs can be very negative. This is the case with the Wild and Scenic designation of the Hanford Reach.

The problem is not with the Wild and Scenic designation — about which there has been much discussion — the problem is the National Wildlife Refuge designation, which has had virtually no discussion.

Local government officials and citizens have been preoccupied with trying to plan for the future of the Hanford site.

We have all participated in or reviewed numerous proposals, studies, reports and environmental reviews that address a wide range of subjects, such as The Future Site Uses report, the Tank Waste report, K Basin and N Springs reports and the Hanford Reach Environmental Impact Statement.

The primary difficulty with all these reports and studies is they lack integration and a common focus.

Some focus on very narrow and specific issues, while others are prepared by a single-purpose agency and may be contradictory, inconsistent or misleading when compared with other studies or reports.

The Hanford Reach EIS is a prime example of a narrowly directed study. Prepared by the National Park Service, the document examines and

proposes the designation of the Hanford Reach National Wildlife Refuge with a Wild and Scenic River overlay.

Refuges are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to the Refuge Administration Act. What the general public does not realize is a Wild and Scenic River within a Wildlife Refuge would be managed according to the strictest provisions of the Refuge Administration Act, despite the Wild and Scenic River management plan.

Refuge designation would make fish and wildlife conservation the paramount purpose of the reach.

All other uses automatically become secondary and would be permitted only to the degree "compatible" with the refuge's primary purpose. So-called "secondary uses" would include all forms of recreation, irrigation, power generation and maintenance of rights of way.

Adoption of the Park Service proposal would foreclose many management options. For example, proposals for local control under the Growth Management and Shorelines Acts would be pre-empted.

Potential return of selected lands, such as the Wahluke Slope, to the Bureau of Reclamation under a 1957 agreement or privatization in accord with the Atomic Energy Communities Act would be pre-empted.

The Hanford Reach EIS puts the cart before the horse. A refuge designation, with its restrictive management regime, would effectively prohibit many of the activities we currently enjoy on the Hanford Reach.

The counties believe no reasonable options should be foreclosed until comprehensive plans are prepared for the entire Hanford site.

Benton County is, at present, developing a work program to prepare a Hanford Sub-Area Plan to the Benton County Comprehensive Plan as part of its Growth Management Act responsibilities.

An essential element of the Hanford Sub-Area Plan is a Resources Management Plan for the Hanford Reach.

To accomplish the Resources Management Plan for the Hanford Reach, the counties are proposing to form a Partnership Working Group.

The Partnership Working Group will be created among government entities that have a measure of jurisdiction in the Hanford Reach.

Group membership would comprise of the Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, Benton, Franklin and Grant counties, and the state of Washington.

The Partnership Working Group would be charged with preparing a comprehensive Resources Management Plan for the Hanford Reach to achieve the following objectives:

- Conserve fish and wildlife values.
- Provide access corridors for long-term economic opportunities to local communities to offset losses from the Hanford shutdown.
- Redeem historic promises made by the federal government to local communities.
- Conserve other important natural values.
- Provide for optimal local and state controls consistent with these objectives.

We, your local elected representatives, are committed to working with federal and state agencies as members of the Partnership Working Group.

An integrated cooperative plan is needed to protect the full array of public interests in the Hanford Reach, and we are committed to its accomplishment.

■ Benton County Commissioner Ray Isaacson wrote this for the commissioners of Benton, Franklin and Grant counties.